TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 30, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 21 totaled an estimated 17.6 billion ton-miles, 0.1 percent above the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 51 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 871.7 billion ton-miles, down 4.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 21 totaled 374,781, down 0.9 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 4.7 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 1.4 percent in the East, and 4.0 percent in the South, but up 1.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 16 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, coal loadings were up 3,947 cars (3.5 percent). Fifteen of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 14 totaled 95,585 trailers and/or containers, 2.1 percent above the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 50 weeks of the year was 4,358,813 trailers and/or containers, down 1.4 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/21/85:

| | Loadings in Week ended December 21, 1985 | | Change from Corresponding Week 1984 | | | Change from Preceding Week | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cars | | Cars | Percent | | Cars | Percent |
| Grain | 26,192 | D | 1,992 | 7.1 | I | 213 | 0.8 |
| Other farm products | 4,382 | I | 223 | 5.4 | D | 136 | 3.0 |
| Metallic ores | 11,158 | I | 35 | 0.3 | D | 1,284 | 10.3 |
| Coal | 116,597 | I | 3,947 | 3.5 | D | 6,741 | 5.5 |
| Crushed stone, gravel and sand | 8,967 | D | 143 | 1.6 | D | 2,045 | 18.6 |
| Nonmetallic minerals | 10,352 | I | 7 | 0.1 | D | 236 | 2.2 |
| Grain mill products | 9,804 | D | 734 | 7.0 | D | 846 | 7.9 |
| Food and kindred products | 10,715 | D | 225 | 2.1 | D | 932 | 8.0 |
| Primary forest products | 10,690 | D | 1,622 | 13.2 | D | 876 | 7.6 |
| Lumber and wood products except furniture | 6,951 | D | 378 | 5.2 | I | 211 | 3.1 |
| Pulp, paper and allied products | 13,415 | D | 1,619 | 10.8 | D | 115 | 0.9 |
| Chemicals and allied products | 23,623 | D | 1,620 | 6.4 | I | 1,328 | 6.0 |
| Petroleum products | 4,740 | D | 279 | 5.6 | I | 21 | 0.4 |
| Stone, clay and glass products | 7,943 | D | 1,273 | 13.8 | D | 1,085 | 12.0 |
| Coke | 4,488 | D | 73 | 1.6 | I | 14 | 0.3 |
| Metals and products | 7,393 | D | 17 | 0.2 | D | 357 | 4.6 |
| Motor vehicles and equipment | 18,348 | D | 1,218 | 6.2 | D | 5,674 | 23.6 |
| Waste and scrap materials | 7,617 | D | 267 | 3.4 | D | 647 | 7.8 |
| Forwarder and shipper association traffic | 6,268 | D | 489 | 7.2 | D | 79 | 1.2 |
| All other carloads | 65,040 | I | 4,539 | 7.5 | I | 700 | 1.1 |
| LCL traffic | 98 | D | 75 | 43.4 | D | 56 | 36.4 |
| Total Cars Loaded | 374,781 | D | 3,273 | 0.9 | D | 18,622 | 4.7 |
| Corresponding week of 1984 | 378,054 | | | | | | |

| | 1985 | 1984 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Cars Loaded (51 weeks) | 19,169,627 | 20,023,844 | D 4.3 |
| Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions): | | | |
| 50 Weeks ended December 14 | 854.0 | 892.0 | D 4.3 |
| Week ended December 21 | 17.6 | 17.6 | I 0.1 |
| 51 Weeks cumulative | 871.7 | 909.7 | D 4.2 |

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